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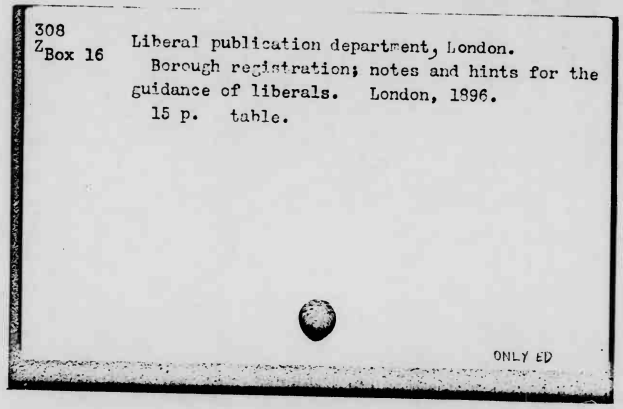

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BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

NOTES AND HINTS

FOR THE

GUIDANCE OF LIBERALS.

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THE LIBERAL PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

(In connection with the National Liberal Federation and the Liberal Central Association.)

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BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

Notes and Hints for the Guidance of Liberals.

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BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

I.—PREFACE.

Every Liberal can render valuable, in fact indispensable, service to the Cause by attention to that branch of Party organisation known as Registration of Electors.

There is a disposition to leave this work to the Overseers, and especially to the Assistant Overseer. Certainly it is their duty to compile as accurate a list of occupiers as possible; but even the best intentioned and most careful official, free though he be from Party bias, is apt to make occasional mistakes of omission and commission.

There is also a dangerous tendency to regard Registration work as the duty of the Party Agent. But no agent can successfully ensure the enrolment of every qualified Liberal, and the striking off of every unqualified Tory, without the willing and zealous co-operation of the local Committees and workers.

It should never be forgotten that the entire political complexion of a Borough may be changed by the Registration. Assiduous attention to this work on the part of our opponents, and systematic neglect of it on our part, have repeatedly been responsible for adverse results.

This short compilation being intended rather for the guidance of the amateur than for the reference of the expert, the use of technical phraseology and the discussion, or even mention, of rare or intricate cases have, as far as possible, been avoided.

The diminishing class of what are termed "Reserved Right" Voters is not included in the scope of this pamphlet, with the solitary exception of "Freemen."

Furthermore, this short work is not intended for metropolitan constituencies.

II.—GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

The most complete and efficient way of dealing with Registration is by a systematic canvass of the town by a staff of paid assistants acting under the direction of the Secretary or the

Registration Agent of the Liberal Association. Every house or other building to be visited as near as possible to July 15th, in order that full particulars of the occupation of the premises may be obtained.

In what follows, however, the leading idea is voluntary work on the part of members of Liberal Committees.

This alternative (and necessarily less complete) way of dealing with Registration is by Committeemen observing, and, as they arise, carefully noting in a memorandum book all changes affecting the Register of Voters within a road or street undertaken by them.

This work would be carried on under the supervision of the responsible officer of the Party organisation—to whom the Committeemen would look for explicit instructions.

A. The Occupation of Houses, Offices, etc.

Enter into the book the full names and addresses of any occupiers who remove, with information as to where they have gone, giving the actual date of removal, and, where possible, the actual length of time they had occupied the house they leave.

Also enter the full name of the incoming tenant, with details as to the premises previously occupied by him for the twelve months prior to July 15th.

B. Lodgings.

Enter the names of all persons residing in houses as lodgers, with particulars as to date of commencement of occupation, name and address of person to whom rent is paid, whether the lodgings are wholly or partly furnished by such person, and whether the payment made by the lodger includes a charge for board.

III.—PRINCIPAL QUALIFICATIONS.

The principal qualifications for the Parliamentary Franchise may be summarised as below:—

1. Occupation of any dwelling-house as a householder for twelve months immediately preceding July 15th.

The dwelling-house need not be the same dwelling-house, but may be two or more dwelling-houses occupied in immediate succession within the same Parliamentary Borough.

2. **Occupation of any land or business premises** of the clear yearly value of £10 for twelve months immediately preceding July 15th, and residence for the previous six months within seven miles of the Parliamentary Borough.

As in the case of a dwelling-house the, land or premises need not be the same throughout the twelve months.

3. **Sole Occupation** for twelve months, immediately preceding July 15th, of a dwelling, **as an official or servant,** such as bank-manager, schoolmaster, caretaker, coachman, gardener, &c., providing the master or employer does not reside on the premises

4. **Occupation, as lodger,** of a room or rooms, worth £10 a-year if let unfurnished, in the same dwelling-house for twelve months immediately preceding July 15th.

5. **The status, and consequent voting privilege,** of a freeman. This is acquired by servitude (apprenticeship to a freeman), or descent; but only in a limited number of Boroughs.

IV. NOTES ON THE VARIOUS QUALIFICATIONS.

(*a*)—Household Qualification.

Rent.

The amount of rent paid is immaterial.

Payment of Rates.

Some person (either landlord, rent-collector, or tenant) must have been rated to all poor-rates due in respect of the dwelling-house up to the preceding 5th January, and must have paid such rates on or before* July 20th. If the landlord neglects to pay, the tenant may pay and withhold the rent till he is reimbursed.

Joint occupation.

No person is entitled under this qualification if he occupy jointly with someone else (unless the value of the dwelling-house is such as to give £10 for each of the joint occupiers—see (*b*)).

Part of a house separately

The term "dwelling-house" has a wider meaning than appears at first sight. It includes any part of a house **separately**

* The issue of some such circular as the following has been found advantageous :—

July 15th.

DEAR SIR,—I am requested to remind our Liberal friends that it is necessary for them to pay their Poor rates on or **before the 20th of July**, or their names will be left out of the **List of Voters**, and they would, therefore, be **disfranchised** for the whole of next year, during which time a **General Election** may take place.

Hoping you will be able to assist the cause by urging all Liberals to pay their **Rates** in due time.—I am, yours respectfully, etc.

occupied as a dwelling-house. And it is no disqualification that, in addition to separately occupying such part, the occupier is entitled to the joint use of some other part.

occupied as a dwelling house.

A householder may let his house as a furnished house to some other person for not more than four months during the qualifying period without losing his qualification.

Letting for short terms.

Where a Parliamentary Borough is divided into several divisions, and two or more houses, situate in different Parliamentary divisions but in the same borough, have been occupied in succession during the qualifying period, the occupier is entitled to be registered in the division in which he occupied on July 15th.

(*b*)—Occupation of Land or Business Premises (known as the £10 Qualification).

Joint occupation.

Persons may be qualified as joint occupiers in respect of the same land or premises, providing the clear yearly value be £10 or over for each person.

Lands and tenements may be joined.

The value of several premises, if in the same parish, held under different landlords, may be added together to make up the necessary value of £10.

The provision as to successive occupation in a divided Parliamentary Borough—see above, under (*a*)—likewise applies here.

Residence within seven miles of any part of the Borough boundary is sufficient—distances to be measured as the crow flies, on an Ordnance Survey map.

(*c*)—Service Franchise.

Essential condition.

The principal feature of this, as distinguished from other franchises, is that the occupation of the dwelling-house (or part of a house separately occupied as a dwelling) is compulsory, and necessary for the performance of the official's or servant's duties, and that such employé, if discharged from his employment, would also be obliged to quit the house.

For instance, shop assistants who have, as a condition of their employment, to live on the premises, and who each have separate bedrooms of their own, and whose employer does not himself reside on the premises, are entitled to this franchise.

(*d*)—Lodger Franchise.

Rating.

There is no condition as to rating or payment of rates in the lodger franchise.

Successive apartments in same house. The rooms need not be the same throughout the qualifying period, but must be in the same house: in which case, description of the two sets of rooms should appear in the claim, followed by the word "successive."

Joint occupation. If rooms are jointly occupied by two persons, and the value of the lodgings be sufficient, viz.: worth £20 a year if let unfurnished, they may both be registered in respect thereof.

If more than two persons occupy lodgings jointly, and the value be sufficient to give £10 for each of them, they must decide amongst themselves which two shall claim, because not more than two can be registered for the same lodgings.

Change of landlord. It is not necessary that the landlord or landlady be the same throughout the qualifying period; as for instance, when, on death of landlord, the payment continues to be made to his widow.

Son living at home. It is not necessary that a son living at home with his parents should make an actual payment in **money** for his apartments. For instance, the son of a carpenter, who works for his father, and who would be paid, say, 25s. per week, but in consideration of his being lodged and boarded at home, is only paid 10s., would generally be held to be entitled as a lodger voter.

Value. This example, however, must not be taken as an arbitrary guide in the matter of payment. It is impossible to name an amount which will be deemed sufficient by Revising Barristers generally, whether for furnished lodgings only, or board and lodgings. The only indication which the law gives is that the annual value of the rooms let to a lodger, when unfurnished, shall be £10. Barristers take the matter into their own hands, and generally pay regard to the rental of the house itself.

Absence during qualifying period. A lodger may be absent for not more than four months at a time from his lodgings without losing his qualification providing he still retains them, and that he is absent in the performance of some duty incidental to his employment. For instance, a man employed in engineering works, who is sent abroad to superintend the erection of some new machinery which his firm is supplying, will not lose his qualification, although away three months, providing the lodgings are still being reserved for him, and that he can return to them at any moment he likes.

(*e*)—Freemen.

The Town Clerk of every Borough in which in 1882 there was a "Freeman's Roll," is to continue to keep a list called the Freeman's Roll.

Residence for six months previous to July 15th, within seven miles of the place where the poll of the freemen was wont to be taken, is necessary.

V.—INCAPACITIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.

(*a*) **Minors.** A voter must be of full age (*i.e.*, 21) but he need not be of age throughout the qualifying period; it is sufficient if he be 21 by *July 15th in the year in which he claims.

(*b*) **Women.** No female can be registered as a Parliamentary Voter. (She may vote, however, at some Local Government elections. See Chapter 10.)

(*c*) **Aliens.** Foreigners, although they may own property in this country, and have lived here nearly all their lives, cannot vote unless they have taken out letters of naturalisation at the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. The fee is £5.

(*d*) **Lunatics, &c.** If idiots, lunatics, or imbeciles possess the requisite qualifications as to occupation, and are allowed to be at large and to manage their own affairs like other people, there is no reason why they should not be registered. (It would, however, be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer at an election to allow or to refuse their votes, according to whether he thought they were sufficiently sane at the time of voting to know what they were doing. Presiding Officers have the same discretion as to allowing the votes of drunkards, and deaf and dumb, deaf and blind, or dumb and blind persons.)

(*e*) **Felons, &c.** Persons convicted of crime and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, or to more than 12 months' imprisonment without hard labour, are disqualified by law from voting until pardoned or released.

A convict out on ticket-of-leave cannot commence to qualify as a voter until his sentence has expired.

(*f*) **Peers.** With the exception of Irish Peers who have been elected to the House of Commons, no Peer is entitled to the Parliamentary Franchise. (He is, however, entitled to some Local Government Franchises. See Chapter 10.)

(*g*) **Bankrupt.** Bankruptcy is no disqualification of itself, but a bankrupt would most probably lose his occupation vote, owing to the Trustee or Official Receiver taking over the tenancy for the benefit of the creditors.

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* According to Rogers on Elections, Part I. (Registration), Fifteenth Edition, p. 168, this date may be July 31st.

(*h*) Alms. 1. Parochial relief. 2. Medical relief.

Any person who has received Parochial Relief, either for himself, or his wife, or his children under 16, during the qualifying period, is not entitled to be registered. The receipt of medical or surgical attendance, or medicine, does not, however, disqualify.

3. Alms-houses;

Admittance into Almshouses will usually disqualify. (This, however, depends on the conditions of admittance, which vary in nearly every case.)

and (4) charitable bequests.

It may generally be taken, both in the cases of Almshouses and of Charitable Bequests, that if they form part of the general parish resources for the relief of the poor they disqualify; and that where the recipients, had there been no such Charities, would **not** have had "to go on the parish," generally speaking, they do **not** disqualify.

VI.—CLAIMS.

(*a*)—Who must Claim.

Lodgers.

All lodgers desirous of being registered **must claim**; and if their claims are allowed by the Revising Barrister, **must**, nevertheless, **Claim again each year.** Unless formally objected to, Old Lodgers need not attend the Revision Court to prove their right to be retained on the List of Voters.

Occupiers.

Persons entitled either to the Household, the £10, or the Service Franchises **need not claim** providing their names have been correctly put on the lists by the Overseers. They should, however, without fail, **examine these lists**, which are affixed to the Church and Chapel doors, Post and sub-Post Offices, on August 1st, and **if their names are omitted they must claim.**

(*b*)—General Instructions.

Dates for sending in claims.

Occupation and Lodger Claims must be sent in to the Overseers **by August 20th.**

Lodgers whose claims have been allowed in a previous year, and who still possess the qualification (and are known as **Old Lodgers**), must re-claim every year between **July 15th** and **July 25th.**

Claims should be sent in before the last day.

It is urged that all claims should be sent in **at** least two days before the last day, as, if not sent in until the last day, there is a possibility of their being overlooked or mislaid.

Signing claims.

All claimants should sign their own claim, and should sign their names in full. Lodgers' claims must also be signed by a

witness, who **must see** the claimant sign—the date on which the two signatures are affixed being carefully given—and who should be someone who is well acquainted with him and his lodgings (the landlord or landlady, for instance). It is inadvisable for Party Agents to witness claims.

Where to get forms.

Claim forms can be obtained from the Overseers or from the Secretary of the central Liberal Association for the constituency or from the Liberal Publication Department, 42, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

How to fill in claims, 1st column.

In all claims, the first column must contain the full name of the claimant, surname being first.

2nd column.

In all claims (**except** Lodger Claims) the second column must contain his correct postal address.

3rd and 4th columns.

The third column (headed "Nature of Qualification") and the fourth column (headed "Description of Qualifying Property") are most important.

Household claims.

In the case of claimants for the household franchise the words "dwelling-house" must be inserted in the third column; and in the fourth column the road, street, lane, etc., in which the house is situated, with the number or name of the house, if any.

Successive occupation.

If the claimant has lived in two or more houses during the qualifying period, the third column must be filled in "dwelling-house, successive"; and in the fourth column the description of the various houses the claimant has occupied, in the order in which he has occupied them.

£10 qualification.

In the case of claimants under the £10 qualification, the third column must be filled in "land and tenement," "land," "house, joint," or as the case may be.

And the fourth column must, as in the case of the dwelling-house claim, contain the description as to **where** the qualification is situated.

Successive joint.

If the qualification is a successive (joint) one, the words "successive, joint" must also be inserted in the third column.

Claims should be made out in duplicate.

All claims should be made out in duplicate, one copy being sent to the Overseers. The other copy should be in the hands of the Liberal Registration Agent, in order that he may know beforehand what claims he is to support.

The desirability of filling up the claims several days before the last day for sending them in to the Overseers, and of filling them up in duplicate, cannot be too strongly urged.

VII.—OBJECTIONS.

(*a*)—Who may Object.

Any person whose name is on any list of Parliamentary voters may object to the retention of the name of any other person on any list of Parliamentary voters (or claimants) for the same Parliamentary Borough. It is, of course, most desirable—essential, as a rule—that the objector should be on Division I.

(*b*)—General Instructions.

Notice of objection to the retention of the names of persons on the Old Lodgers Lists and New Occupation Lists (published on August 1st) must be made in writing, in the form prescribed, and must be served on the Overseers and on the persons objected to, on or before August 20th.

Occupation and lodger claims.

August 20th is the latest date for serving notices of objection; and as the lists of New Occupation and Lodger **claims** are not published till August 25th, objection to them can be made in the Revision Court (held between September 8th and October 12th) on giving written notice to the Revising Barrister at the opening of the Court.

Grounds of objection.

The notices to be served on the Overseers need not specify the ground of objection; but the notices served on the persons objected to must clearly set forth the ground or grounds of objection, as in the specimens given at the end of thischapter.

Notices to be made out in duplicate.

The notices to be served on the persons objected to should always be made out in duplicate.

Signature & Address.

It is very advisable that the objector sign his name in full, as clearly and distinctly as possible, **after the names have been filled in,** and that in every respect both name and address should exactly correspond with the entry on the List of Voters. The fact that the name of the objector differs from the List entry, or that, through removal, the address on the List is no longer accurate, may not always disqualify him as an objector; but the signing of objections by individuals inaccurately described is emphatically discouraged as productive of complications.

List on which name appears.

The notice must also be dated, and must specify on what list of voters the objector's name appears; so that the person objected to may have no difficulty in satisfying himself that the objector is entitled to object.

Modes of serving objections 1. by hand,

A notice of objection may be delivered personally by the objector, or by his messenger, at the house of, or into the hands of, the person objected to. It is well to deliver the notice to the Overseers personally.

It is necessary, however, when the Revision Court is held, to be able to prove the service of the objection on the person objected to; and accordingly a safer mode of service is provided.

2. under provisions of 6 Vic., c. 18, s. 100.

The notice of objection, duly made out and signed, etc., in duplicate, and with the name and address (as it appears on the Register although he may have removed) of the person objected to on the back, must be taken to any Post Office (where Money Orders are received or paid). One portion of the notice must have a postage stamp on it to prepay the postage and must be registered at an additional cost of 2d. The Postmaster must examine the two notices, and if satisfied that they are exact duplicates, he will retain and send by post the portion on which the registration fee and postage has been paid, and hand back to the objector the other portion, with the dated stamp of the Post Office on it. The production of this stamped duplicate in the Revision Court will be sufficient evidence that the notice has been duly and legally served.

Be in time.

Care must be taken that the notice thus sent is in sufficient time for it to be delivered, in the ordinary course of post, on or before August 20th.

(*c*) Grounds of Objection.

Grounds of objection.

The following are some of the objections that may be made:—

Ground of Objection.	*Statement of objection to be used on the Form despatched to the person objected to, and on the duplicate of such Form.*
1. That the person is not of full age.	That on the *15th day of July last you were not of the age of twenty-one years.
2. That the person is not of the male sex.	That you are disqualified by reason of your being a woman.
3. That the person is an alien, and has not been naturalised as a British subject.	That on and prior to the *15th day of July last you were not a British subject.
4. That the person is dead.	That you have not during the whole of the Twelve Calendar Months preceding the 15th day of July last occupied as tenant (*or* owner) the premises described on the said List.
5. That the person is a peer of the realm.	That on the 15th day of July last you were a peer of the realm and, therefore, are disqualified.
6. That the person's place of abode is altogether insufficiently described for the purpose of being identified. (In this case, the return of the notice marked "gone, no address," or "not known," is a reasonable proof of the objection.)	That, on the List of Voters, your place of abode is *inaccurately described. * *Or* "insufficiently."

* According to "Rogers" (see note, p. 6) this may be July 31st.

7. That the person, or his wife, or his children under the age of 16 years, have received **parochial relief,**	That within the Twelve Calendar Months next previous to the 15th day of July last you received *parochial relief.
or	
8. "other alms" within the meaning of 2 Will. 4, c. 45, s. 36.	* *In the case of an objection under* 8 *say* "Alms which by the law of Parliament now disqualify," *instead* of "parochial relief."
9. That the person has not occupied the premises a sufficient time.	That you have not during the whole of the Twelve Calendar Months preceding the 15th day of July last occupied as tenant (**or** owner) the premises described on the said List.
10. That the person is a bankrupt, and the Trustee has taken the term.	That you have not during the whole of the Twelve Calendar Months preceding the 15th day of July last occupied as tenant (**or** owner) the premises described on the said List.

The foregoing may, on occasion, be applied to all Divisions of Borough Voters.

11. That the necessary rates and taxes due up to January 5th had not been paid before July 20th.	That you had not, on or before the 20th day of July last, paid the *poor rates payable from you previously to the 5th day of January last in respect of the qualifying property.
	* *Add the words* "assessed taxes" *where necessary.*

The application of the above is restricted to Household and £10 (Occupation) Voters.

12. Break in occupation by letting dwelling-house longer than four months.	That during a part of the qualifying period, exceeding four months in the whole, you have, by letting or otherwise, permitted the qualifying premises to be occupied as a furnished house by some other person.

This objection relates to the Household qualification.

13. Residence beyond the Seven mile limit.	That you have not resided for Six Calendar Months next previous to the 15th day of July last within the said Borough or within Seven statute miles thereof.

This objection relates to the £10 qualification and Freemen. In the case of Freemen the words "of the place where the Poll of the Freemen was wont to be taken for the said Borough" should appear instead of the word "thereof."

14. That the declaration attached to a lodger claim is false.	That the declaration attached to your claim is inaccurate and imperfect.
15. That the claim has **not** been signed by the claimant.	That the claim purporting to be signed by you is not in fact signed by you.
16. That the occupation of the claimant has not been a *bona-fide* one.	That you have not during the whole of the Twelve Calendar Months preceding the 15th day of July last been the occupier of the rooms for which you claim.
17. That the claimant shares apartments with another, or others, and claims as sole lodger.	That you have not had during the whole of the Twelve Calendar Months preceding the 15th day of July last sole and exclusive use of the rooms for which you claim.
18. That the rooms are of insufficient value.	That the rooms described on the said claim are not of the value of £10 per annum unfurnished.
19. That the particulars in the second column are incorrect.	That the position of the rooms is not accurately and sufficiently described on the said claim.

These last six objections apply to Lodgers only.

VIII.—DECLARATIONS.

Declarations must be sent to the Town Clerk, so as to reach him not later than September 5th.

Occupation and old lodger voters may amend *any* column by declaration.

Any person whose name is on any Occupation List (either in respect of the household, £10, or service qualification), or on any Old Lodger's List, and whose name, or address, or the particulars of whose qualification, happen to be incorrectly described, may, if he possesses the qualification, make a declaration before a Justice of the Peace, or a Commissioner to Administer Oaths, setting forth (according to the prescribed form) **the correct particulars.**

It will be put in the hands of the Revising Barrister at his first Court, and unless he shall have "good reason to doubt the genuiness of any signature thereto," the declaration will be accepted as evidence and the alteration made.

IX.—REGISTRATION DIARY.

After July 15th, and before July 25th.	Lodgers on the existing Register, if still qualified, must send in "Old Lodgers' Claim."
August 1st.	Overseers publish :— (*a*) List of old lodgers who have reclaimed ; and (*b*) New occupation lists.
Between August 1st and August 20th—if possible before August 15th	Ward committees to meet and carefully examine all the new lists, and to make inquiries, with a view to making :— (*a*) Objections to old lodger claimants. (*b*) Objections to persons on New Occupation Lists, either for Household, £10, or Service qualifications. (*c*) Occupation claims. (*d*) New Lodger claims
August 20th.	Last day for Occupation and New Lodger Claims to reach Overseers. Last day for notices of objection to be served on Overseers, and on persons objected to.
August 25th.	Overseers publish lists of Occupiers and Old Lodgers, and Occupation, and New Lodger, } Objected to ; } Claims ; and deliver copies thereof on payment.
September 5th.	Last day for declarations, occupiers or old lodgers, as to any of the particulars of their qualification, to be sent in to the Town Clerk.
Between August 25th and September 8th.	Ward Committees ought (*a*) to examine and enquire into all objections and claims made by their opponents. (*b*) to mark all the new claim and objection lists with full information as to politics, and correctness or otherwise of particulars. (*c*) to mark up on New Occupation Lists any incorrect spelling, printers' errors, etc., and (*d*) hand all these lists to the Secretary of the Central Liberal Association of the constituency.
Between September 8th and October 12th.	Revision Courts held.
All the year round.	All Liberal workers to enter in Memorandum books all changes in occupation.

X.—SHORT EPITOME OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISES.

In the preceding chapters are enumerated the qualifications necessary to entitle a person to be registered as a Parliamentary voter. The conditions of qualification and registration as a voter for the election of Town and County Councillors are somewhat different.

(*a*) Who may Vote for Town and County Councillors.

The Ownership, Service and Lodger qualifications do **not** confer a vote for the election of Town and County Councillors. The household, and the £10, qualifications **do**; and "occupation of a house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building," without regard to value, with the usual limit as to seven miles residence (known as "Old Burgess" qualification), also confers the Town and County Council vote. And for Town and County Council purposes, **women** (spinsters and widows), if they in all other respects possess the necessary qualifications, may be registered.

Owners, Service voters and Lodgers cannot vote for Town and County Councillors

(*b*) Who may Vote for Guardians.

All persons whose names are upon the Parliamentary or Municipal or Parochial Electors' Lists for the Borough, except ing Freemen only.

(*c*) Who may Vote for Members of School Boards.

In Municipal Boroughs—

All who are on the Burgess Roll.

Elsewhere than in Municipal Boroughs—

Ratepayers.

XI.—REGISTERS IN PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS

Reproduced by kind consent of Messrs. Nash and Allport, the authors of "The Duties of Overseers," &c.

The persons on the various Lists will be entitled to vote as shown on the Tables below.

	Parishes in Boroughs Parliamentary *and* Municipal.					Parishes in Boroughs Parliamentary and *not* Municipal.*				
	Parliament.	Town Council.	County Council (except County Boroughs)	Guardians.	School Board.	Parliament.	County Council.	District Council.	Guardians.	Parish Council.
1. Ownership List	—	—	—	G.	—	—	—	D.C.	G.	P.C.
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